

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7-8, and 10-12 are amended; and claim 1 is canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-5 and 7-22 are pending.

The amendments to the claims are based on the application as originally filed, so it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the office action, it is stated that claims 18-22 are allowed.

It is also stated that claims 7-10 and 16 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form.

Independent claims 7-8 and 10 are rewritten and amended to be in independent form, and claims 9 and 16 depend from claims 8 and 7, respectively. Therefore, claims 7-10 and 16 are allowable, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

In the office action, claims 1-5, 11-15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of EP Patent Application Number EP0828165A2 to Greller et al. and U.S. Patent Numbers 7,125,145 to Gardiner and 6,928,029 to Rickman.

Claim 1 is canceled, and dependent claims 2-5 and 11-12 are amended to depend from allowable claim 7. Claims 13-15 and 17 depend from claims 12, 3-4, and 11, respectively.

Therefore, claims 2-5, 11-15, and 17 recite the allowable subject matter of claim 7 and any intervening claims, so claims 2-5, 11-15, and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Therefore, all pending rejected claims 2-5, 11-15, and 17 are patentable over the cited art, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 11-15, and 17 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all pending claims 2-5 and 7-22 are allowable.

Entry and approval of the present amendment and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In case of any deficiencies in fees by the filing of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiencies in fees to Deposit Account Number 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

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